



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

July 11, 2012

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR
FROM: DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

2012 FOURTH OF JULY 24-HOUR ACTIVITY REPORT

This report includes a preliminary summary of firework-related emergency incidents, property loss, and the number of injuries that occurred on July 4, 2012. Also included is a summary of the community outreach efforts to mitigate the anticipated increase in emergency activity during the 2012 Fourth of July holiday.

FIREWORK-RELATED EMERGENCY ACTIVITY REPORT

The following information indicates the firework-related activities that took place during the 24-hour period from 8 a.m. on July 4, 2012 to 8 a.m. on July 5, 2012:

Number of Incidents	2011	2012
Structure Fires	1	0
Miscellaneous Fires	2	3
Grass/Brush Fires	4	2
Total	7	5

Dollar/Average Loss/Injuries	2011	2012
Structures/Contents	\$40,000.00	\$0
Miscellaneous Property	\$ 500.00	\$4,525.00
Grass/Brush	2.22 Acres	.22 Acres
Injuries (Civilian)	1	0
Total	\$40,500.00	\$4,525.00

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS
ARTESIA
AZUSA
BALDWIN PARK
BELL
BELL GARDENS
BELLFLOWER
BRADBURY

CALABASAS
CARSON
CERRITOS
CLAREMONT
COMMERCE
COVINA
CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR
DUARTE
EL MONTE
GARDENA
GLENDALE
HAWAIIAN GARDENS
HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS
HUNTINGTON PARK
INDUSTRY
INGLEWOOD
IRVINDALE
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA
LA PUENTE
LAKEWOOD
LANCASTER
LAWDALE
LOMITA
LYNWOOD

MALIBU
MAYWOOD
NORWALK
PALMDALE
PALOS VERDES ESTATES
PARAMOUNT
PICO RIVERA

POMONA
RANCHO PALOS VERDES
ROLLING HILLS
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
ROSEMEAD
SAN DIMAS
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL
SOUTH EL MONTE
SOUTH GATE
TEMPLE CITY
WALNUT
WEST HOLLYWOOD
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
WHITTIER

The Department's Fire Command and Control Facility received 1,831 calls, of which 1,067 required resources to be dispatched. The other calls were duplicate calls, non-injury calls, questions regarding illegal fireworks, and questions regarding cities allowing safe and sane fireworks. This is an overall decrease as compared to last year's total phone calls of 2,876, of which 1,135 calls required resources to be dispatched.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Special emphasis was placed on warning the public of the dangers associated with the use of fireworks. The public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks display instead of using private home-use fireworks. The following is a list of the campaign highlights for 2012:

- Conducted the 21st Annual "Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest" with the theme of *Attend a Professional Fireworks Display*. All elementary schools within the County of Los Angeles were invited to participate and over 500 posters were submitted.
- A press conference was held on June 28, 2012, to announce and award prizes to the winners of the "Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest." The public was also encouraged to attend a professional fireworks show. Present were representatives from our Department, Los Angeles City Fire Department, Grossman Burn Center and the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. The City of Los Angeles Police Department was also on hand to discuss the dangers of legal and illegal fireworks.
- Conducted numerous interviews with local and national newspapers, radio, and television stations regarding the potential dangers of fireworks.
- Placed in operation the Professional Fireworks Show Directory Hotline (888) 654-FIRE (3473) to provide information in both English and Spanish on the locations of professional fireworks shows.
- The Public Affairs Unit posted public safety information and videos on the website at www.fire.lacounty.gov to emphasize the cities that allowed "safe and sane" fireworks as well as the cities not permitting fireworks. The website included a list of all professional fireworks shows in the County and advised that fireworks are not permitted in unincorporated County areas. We also promoted the www.safejuly4th.org site in this section.
- Provided fireworks safety information to all fire stations for distribution to the public.
- Reviewed and approved the permits and provided fire safety officer oversight for 38 public fireworks displays.
- Staffed the Communications Center with Fire Prevention personnel to support the fireworks enforcement and confiscation activity of fire units and police agencies.

- Partnered with law enforcement agencies from the Sheriff's Department, the City of Los Angeles Police Department, and the Los Angeles School Police. An estimated 12,000 copies of flyers and posters were printed for all County fire stations to promote a safe and sane Fourth of July holiday.

CONCLUSION

The reported fires caused by fireworks were a result of two (2) illegal fireworks and three (3) undetermined fireworks, a decrease by two (2) from the previous year. The dollar loss was down from \$40,500 in 2011 to \$4,525 in 2012. There were no civilian reported injuries caused by fireworks this year. The Department will be compiling a more comprehensive report that covers a 30-day reporting period from June 21 to July 19, 2012. This 30-day report is a more accurate reflection of actual trends in firework-related incidents than the 24-hour figures contained in this report. The 30-day report will be submitted in August 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 881-6180, or your staff may contact Acting Assistant Fire Chief Tony Lewis, Fire Marshal, Fire Prevention Division, at (323) 890-4135.

DLO:yh

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